



The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large



© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate

from The Mini Page © 2009 Universal Press Syndicate

A Giant Leap for Mankind

From the Earth to the Moon

Forty years ago, on July 20, 1969, humans set foot on another world for the first time. That day, Neil Armstrong and Edwin (“Buzz”) Aldrin walked on the moon. Astronaut Michael Collins orbited overhead in the space capsule.

The Mini Page celebrates this anniversary by looking back on our amazing first journey to the moon.

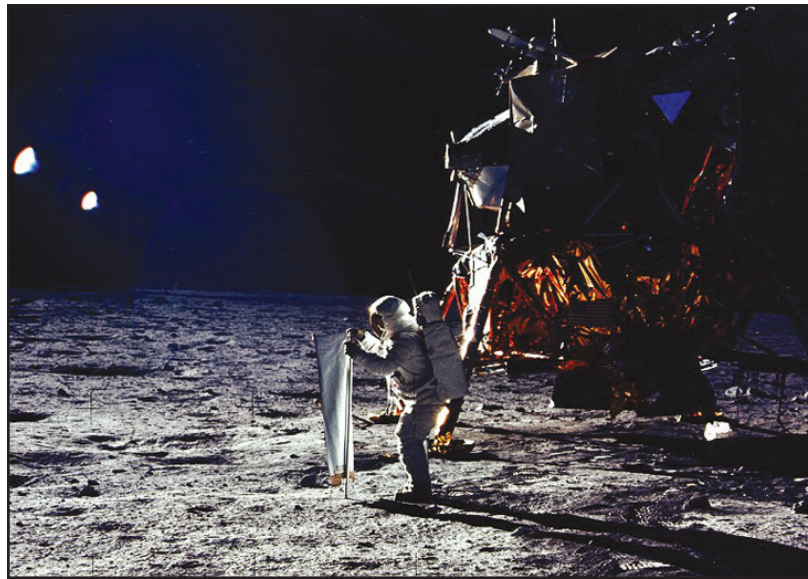
Stepping onto a new land

When Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon, he announced: “That’s one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.”

He meant what he said. This victory belonged to the whole world. Hundreds of thousands of people worked to make the moon landing happen. They built on knowledge that people had discovered throughout history.

Experts estimate that from 1961 to 1972, about one American in every 10 had some involvement with the space program.

For instance, although they might not have actually worked on a rocket, they might have worked for a factory that made the bolts for the rocket.



photos courtesy NASA

Astronaut Buzz Aldrin puts up a solar wind experiment during the first moon landing, July 20, 1969.

About 1 billion people all over the world watched the moon landing live on TV. Your parents or grandparents might have watched this important event on television when they were younger.

There were six missions that landed men on the moon: Apollo 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17, running from 1969 to 1972. Only 12 men have ever stepped onto another world.

Liftoff

The moon missions were launched on May 25, 1961, when President John F. Kennedy announced the goal of sending astronauts to the moon.

His challenge sent people on a journey unlike any other in human history. For the first time, people would leave our home planet to travel to another world.

But exploration wasn’t Kennedy’s first goal. In April 1961, the Soviet Union* sent the first human into space. The United States wanted to prove the Soviets could not beat us. The U.S. was in the middle of the Cold War** with the Soviets, where both sides felt threatened by the other.

*The Soviet Union was a big, powerful country. In 1991, it split into several smaller countries, including Russia.

**In a cold war, violence has not yet begun.

A gift of hope

The moon landing took place in the middle of great difficulties in the U.S. The Vietnam War and anti-war protests were raging. Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. had been assassinated a year earlier. There was racial unrest.

But in the summer of 1969, millions of people stopped and watched in awe as humans did something wonderful. For a brief time, the moon landing brought the world together.



The Apollo 11 astronauts are honored in one of many tickertape parades throughout the world.

Apollo Milestones

A tragic beginning

Two earlier U.S. space programs, Mercury and Gemini, paved the way for the Apollo moon missions.

The moon missions were named after the Greek god **Apollo**, the god of light, music and the sun.

Apollo 1 ended in tragedy when the astronauts were killed in a fire on the launch pad in January 1967.

The Apollo program was delayed for about a year while scientists worked to fix the problems that had caused the deadly fire in Apollo 1.



The Apollo 1 crew, from left, were: Edward H. White II, Virgil I. Grissom and Roger B. Chaffee. They lost their lives when fire broke out during a pre-flight test. The astronauts were unable to escape.



The crew of Apollo 8 were the first humans to witness the Earth rising over the moon. This photo, “Earthrise,” inspired the world.

photos courtesy NASA

Earthrise

Apollo 8 was the first mission with humans aboard to orbit the moon. In 1968, the astronauts took a color picture of the Earth from space, “Earthrise.”

This picture changed the way people looked at the world. It showed our beautiful blue planet alone in the dark skies of the universe. People saw one world with no country boundaries.

The photo also sharpened people’s concerns about the environment. It showed how fragile our planet was.

A dangerous journey

The **Apollo 13** crew had to make an emergency return to Earth after an oxygen tank explosion. Only the quick thinking of astronauts and scientists on Earth saved their lives.



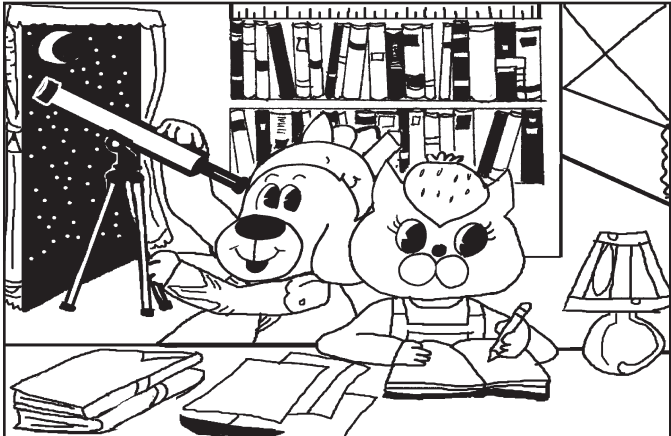
The Apollo 13 crew waits for recovery aboard life rafts after the splash-down.

from The Mini Page © 2009 Universal Press Syndicate

Mini Spy ...



Mini Spy likes to look at the moon and stars with her telescope. See if you can find: • exclamation point • man in the moon



- strawberry
- question mark
- kite
- number 7
- letter V
- fish
- pencil
- ruler
- carrot
- sailboat
- letter I

from The Mini Page © 2009 Universal Press Syndicate



Moon Landing

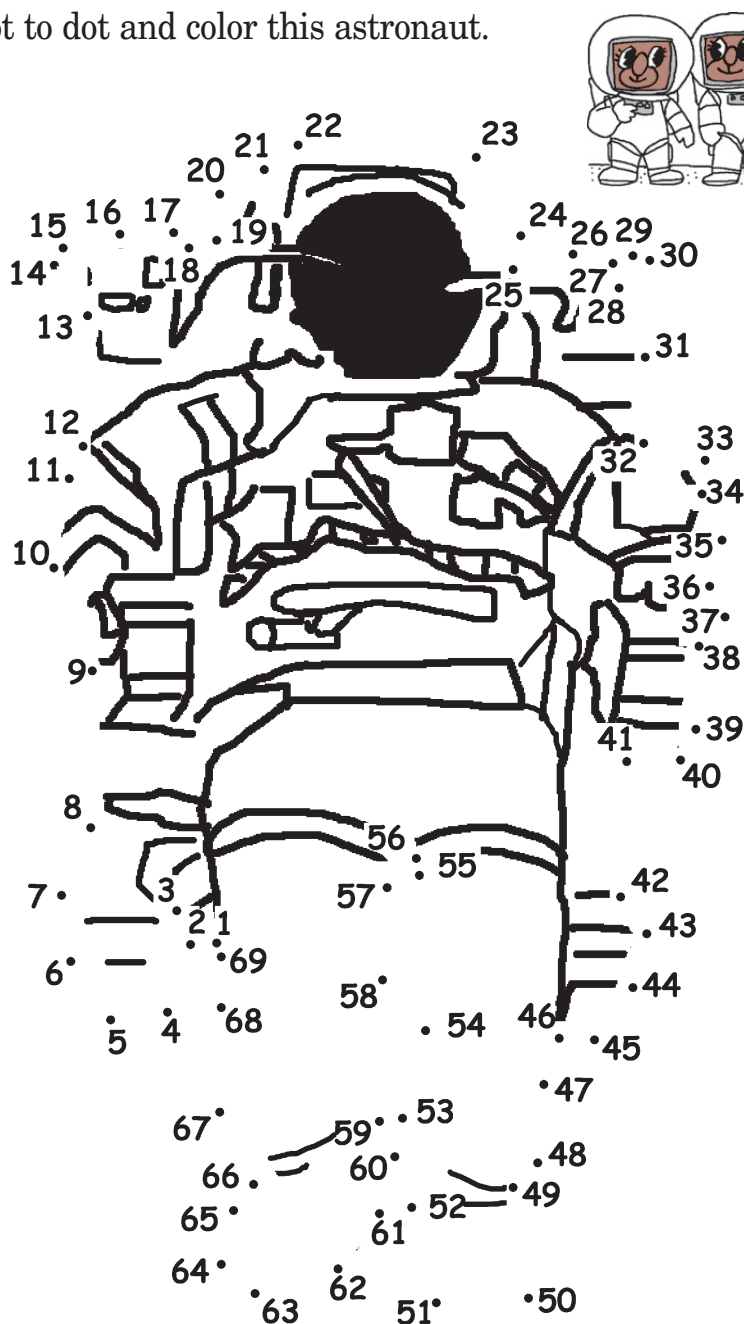
TRY 'N FIND

Words that remind us of the moon landing are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: APOLLO, ASTRONAUTS, LAUNCH, KENNEDY, ONE, SMALL, STEP, GIANT, LEAP, WORLD, SPACE, PLANET, MISSION, EARTH, BLUE, COLONY, SCIENTISTS, COLD, WAR, SATELLITES, RESOURCES.



S S T S I T N E I C S M K A M
W P K L S E C R U O S E R P I
P O A P E T S T N A I G O O S
L B R C L L Y N O L O C N L S
A C L L E E H C N U A L E L I
N W O U D A O V L L A M S O O
E O A L E P Y D E N N E K K N
T V V R D S T U A N O R T S A
H T R A E S E T I L L E T A S

Go dot to dot and color this astronaut.



from The Mini Page © 2009 Universal Press Syndicate



Rookie Cookie's Recipe

A (Avocado), B (Bean) & C (Corn) Salad

You can eat this colorful salad alone or with tortilla chips.

You'll need:

- 1 ripe avocado, diced
- 2 (15-ounce) cans black beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 (15-ounce) cans corn, drained
- 1 medium bell pepper (any color), diced
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro
- juice from small lime
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- sprinkle of salt to taste



What to do:

1. Combine all vegetables and beans in a large bowl.
2. Stir in lime juice and seasonings to blend.
3. Chill for 1 hour. Serves 10 to 12.

**You will need an adult's help with this recipe.*

from The Mini Page © 2009 Universal Press Syndicate

Meet Bill Harley



Bill Harley tells stories through songs about growing up and going to school. He has won two Grammy Awards for his CDs.

Bill also gives commentary on National Public Radio's news program "All Things Considered." He tours the country making speeches, telling stories and playing music. He has made a concert DVD, "Yes to Running."

Bill began singing and telling stories for the public when he was in college, about 30 years ago. He was helping run a day camp for kids and entertained them by playing the guitar and telling stories.

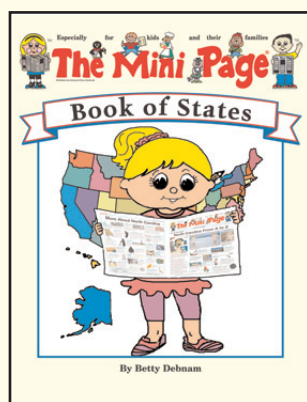
He has also written picture books and novels for kids. His books include "Dirty Joe, The Pirate: A True Story" and "Night of the Spadefoot Toads."

from The Mini Page © 2009 Universal Press Syndicate

NEW!

The Mini Page® Book of States

The Mini Page's popular series of issues about each state is collected here in a 156-page softcover book. Conveniently spiral-bound for ease of use, this invaluable resource contains A-to-Z facts about each state, along with the District of Columbia. Illustrated with colorful photographs and art, and complete with updated information, The Mini Page Book of States will be a favorite in classrooms and homes for years to come.



To order, send \$15.99 (\$19.99 Canada) plus \$5 postage and handling for each copy. Make check or money order (U.S. funds only) payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Send to The Mini Page Book of States, Universal Press Syndicate, P.O. Box 6814, Leawood, KS 66206. Or call toll-free 800-591-2097 or go to www.smartwarehousing.com.

Please send _____ copies of The Mini Page Book of States (Item #0-7407-8549-4) at \$20.99 each, total cost. (Bulk discount information available upon request.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please include all of the appropriate registered trademark symbols and copyright lines in any publication of The Mini Page®.

from The Mini Page © 2009 Universal Press Syndicate



MIGHTY
FUNNY'S

Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Mark: Why were the astronauts unable to land on the moon?

Mary: Because the moon was full!

Melvin: How is the moon supported in the sky?

Millie: By its moonbeams!



Morton: What do we call the Earth's silliest satellite?

Matthew: A moonatic!

To the Moon and Beyond

Gifts from Apollo

People on Earth are sharing unexpected benefits from the space program. Few people imagined these benefits when it began.



For example, without the space program, there would be no Internet or cell phones. They need signals from satellites in space to work.

But experts say the most important reason to explore space is that it answers our need to discover and learn new things. The space program continues to fill people with a sense of wonder.

Costs of Apollo

The whole moon program cost about \$24.5 billion spread out over about eight years. In today's dollars, that is about \$125 billion. That is a lot of money.

But compare that to the roughly \$800 billion the U.S. has promised to spend to save companies in trouble and try to heal our economy.

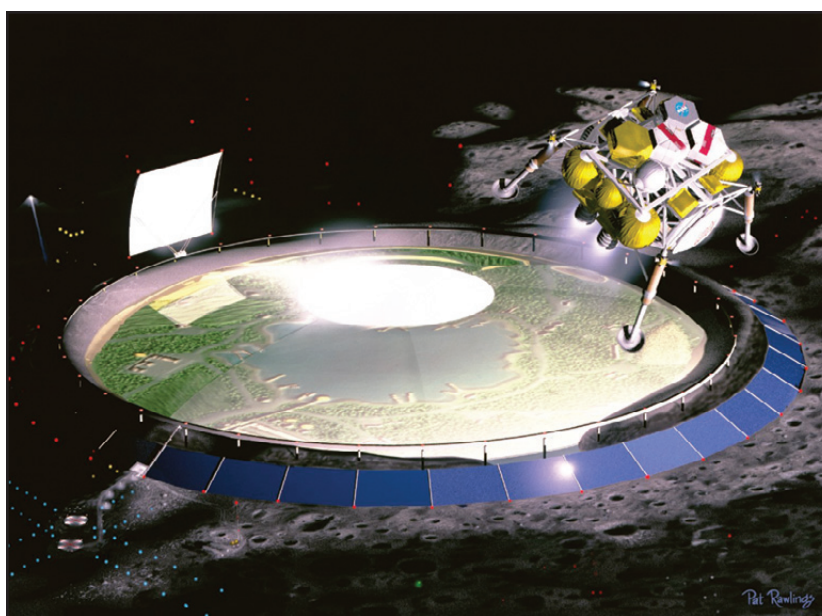
The Apollo program inspired many people on Earth. No one knows how that story will end.



photo courtesy NASA

Apollo 11 astronauts shot this picture of the moon as they flew back to Earth.

Next week, The Mini Page is about the 80th birthday of Anne Frank.



art by Pat Rawlings, courtesy NASA

This artist's drawing shows what a moon colony might look like. Spacecraft have found possible ice deposits in the moon's poles. Scientists think this might be a good place to set up a colony.

Some scientists think that because the moon's gravity is only one-sixth as strong as Earth's, the moon would make a good launch pad for future exploration.

Leaving home

The future of the space program is up in the air. No one knows whether we will build on what we learned from the Apollo program.

Scientists are working on a new space vehicle to replace the shuttle. NASA is working on plans to set up **colonies**, or permanent homes, on the moon. But no one knows if that will actually happen.

Experts agree that sooner or later, people will have to leave Earth if we are to survive. But there is disagreement about how fast we need to do that.

Some people believe that this is the perfect moment to begin setting up colonies on other worlds. Right now, we have the science and technology, and we have the resources.

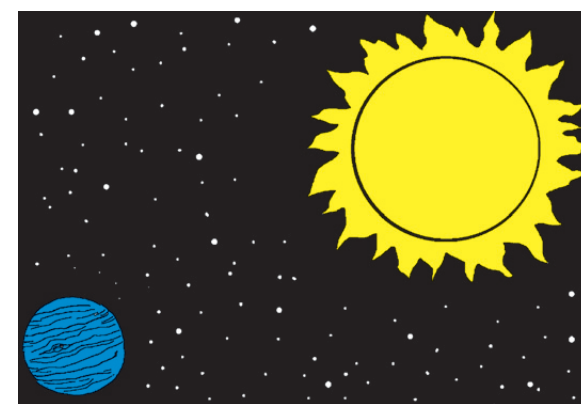
These people worry that humans will use up the resources on Earth. We will need to find new worlds or we will become extinct.



Millions of years from now

Some experts believe that if we don't learn to use our resources wisely and protect our planet, then we shouldn't be spreading to other worlds anyway.

Others believe there is no hurry to move on. We might have millions of years to consider moving to other worlds.



The Mini Page thanks Roger Launius, senior curator, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, for help with this issue.

Sites to see: www.nasa.gov/apollo40th
www.nasa.gov/audience/forchildren/kidsclub/flash/index.html
www.nasm.si.edu

Look through your newspaper for stories about the space program.

The Mini Page Staff

Betty Debnam - Founding Editor and Editor at Large

Lisa Tarry - Managing Editor

Lucy Lien - Associate Editor

Wendy Daley - Artist